(b) whether Government propose to give priority for allotment of such centres and sites to deserving category of persons on the recommendations of Members of Parliament, if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what incentive, facilities and assistance the MTNL are extending to deserving category of persons for such centres; and

(d) the names of sites/places the MTNL are having or its own or leased or rented and are lying vacant for allotment of assignments in Delhi?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Public telephones and telecom centres under the franchise scheme are given to an individual, private enterpreneur or voluntary organisation with the prime objective of creating employment and to increase accessibility at common public places such as Re-settlement Colonies, Government Colonies, Housing Societies, Hospitals, Bus Stands, Railway Stations, Tourist Centres, Pilgrimage Centres, Air Port, Educational Institutions, etc. Preference is given to physically handicapped persons, ex-servicemen, War Widows, etc. Department provides telephone and telex lines on top priority and also maintains them. The Franchise is responsible for providing adequate and suitable accommodation. Departmental sponsored telecom centres are established, maintained, operated and manned by the MTNL staff.

For telephones under franchise scheme no rental or installation charges are levied. There is a monthly guarantee of Rs. 1600/- per month for STD payphone and Rs. 300/- per month for non-STD payphone. In addition, the operating agency has to make an initial security deposit to cover minimum of six months guarantee amount per payphone. This is subsequently adjusted to 3 months average revenue for each payphone.

Speed post facility is not available from these booths.

(b) The priority for physically handicapped persons, Ex-servicemen, War Widows etc. has already been indicated.

(c) Telephone lines and Telex lines are provided on priority basis to the Franchisees and are maintained by the Department. The Franchisee gets a commission of 20 per cent upto first 10,000 unit calls per month per STD payphone and thereafter 10 per cent. For non-STD payphones franchisee gets a commission of 40 per cent.

(d) None, Sir.

Rent paid to the owners of Shanti Niketan and Shantijeevan Buildings, Bombay

3373. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rent being paid to the owners of "Santi Niketan" and "Shantijeevan" buildings on Andheri-Kurla Road, Bombay, occupied by Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited have remained static and scant during the last two decades;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the prevalent rent in the area is much higher than the rent being paid to the owners;

(c) if so, what is the rent being paid with the increase given to the owners during the last five years; and

(d) whether Government propose to increase the rent of the premises in accordance with the instructions/guidelines of the Directorate of Estates, Reserve Bank of India and the Income-tax Department, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) No, Sir. The rent of Shantiniketan/ building was revised upwards twice with effect from 1.1.1988 and 1.1.91. Similarly the rent of Sahjeevan building (and not Shantijeevan) was raised with effect from 1.1.88.

(b) The prevailing market rent in the area may be higher.

(c) The rent paid for the two build ings from time to time is as follows:

SHANTINIKETAN BUILDING:

(1) Date of occupation	1-1-71
(2) Initial rent fixed	Rs. 0·78 per sq. ft.
Period	*Rent*
(i) 1-1-71 to 31-12-87	Rs. 0·78 per sq. ft.
(ii) 1-1-88 to 31-12-90	Rs. 1·54 per sq. ft.
(iii) 1-1-91 onwards	Rs. 1·92 per sq. ft.

2. *SAHJEEVAN BUILDING*

1. Date of occupation	16-10-72
2. Initial rent fixed	Rs. 0·78 sq. ft.
Period	*Rent*
(i) 16-10-72 to 31-12-87	Rs. 0·78 per sq. ft.
(ii) 01-01-88 to 15-10-92	Rs. 1·54 per sq. ft.

(d) Rent is being increased from time to time as per the guidelines approved by the MINL Board.

SC/ST employees working at the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT)

3374. SHRI KAILASH NARAIN SARANG:
SHRI MD. SALIM:
SHRI M. A. BABY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of SC/ST employees working at the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT);

(b) what is the number of SC/ST Engineers recruited to the grades E1, E2, E3 and E4 and the number of those who were promoted to the grades E2, E3, E4 and E5; and

(c) if reservation for SC/STs in recruitment and promotions are not followed in C-DOT, what are the reasons thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): thereof?

(a) Total number of SC/ST employees working at C-DOT is 18.

(b) Total number of SC/ST Engineers recruited to various grades is 15.

Number of promotions of SC/ST Engineers to various Grades is 6.

(c) C-DOT is a scientific research Organisation and doing technological development. Hence it is exempted from the provisions in respect of reservations at E II level and above.

While shortlisting due consideration has been given to SC/ST candidates and they have been recruited if they met the barest minimum requirements.

Car telephones

3375. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of car telephone connections that have been provided in